

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

Austin, Texas.  
April 3, 1923.

Mr. S. L. Staples,  
Secretary of State,  
Capitol Building,  
Austin, Texas.

JB-3-1

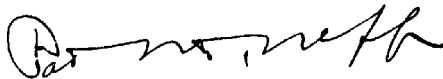
Dear Mr. Secretary:

The object of Senate Bill No. 251 is to prohibit any member of the board of trustees of any public school, or any teacher in any of the public schools of the State, from being interested, as a stockholder, in any school book depository in Texas.

The proponents of the bill say that trustees and school teachers should not be interested in any school book depository, for the reason that said trustees and teachers might use their influence in regard to the purchase of certain school books for the children of the State. A book depository has no interest in the contract for the purchase of books. The depository merely handles books for any publishing company that may have a contract to supply books to the schools, and has no character of control, in any way, as to the making of contracts for the purchase of books. Neither the teachers nor the trustees have any character of control over the purchase of books, and no interest whatsoever in the contracts made by the State with publishers of school books. If a school trustee, or a school teacher, desires to buy stock in the depository that acts as a broker in handling books for all publishing companies, they certainly should have that right. I am unable to see any reason why a public depository, organized for the handling of books, should not be allowed to sell stock in the open market to whomever it desires, and I certainly see no reason that should prohibit the great body of school teachers, if any of them see fit to do so, from buying stock in said depository.

I am, therefore, filing this bill with you, together with  
my disapproval and veto.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. M. Smith", written in a cursive style.

Governor.